

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Weirton BOP Implosion Site - Removal Polrep  
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region III

**Subject:** POLREP #1  
Removal Assessment  
Weirton BOP Implosion Site  
F304  
Weirton, WV  
Latitude: 40.4152360 Longitude: -80.5865622

**To:** Fran Burns, EPA Region 3  
RRC Regional Response Center, EPA Region 3  
Jamie Fenske, WVDEP

**From:** Deborah Lindsey, On-Scene Coordinator

**Date:** 4/9/2020

**Reporting Period:** 10/30/2019 - 2/29/2020

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	F304	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>		<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Assessment
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>		<b>Start Date:</b>	
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>		<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Removal Site Evaluation

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

The Weirton Basic Oxygen Plant Implosion Site (Site) is comprised of the former Basic Oxygen Plant (BOP) at the Frontier, Mingo Junction Steel Works, LLC property and residential properties adjacent to the Weirton BOP property on Weir Avenue and associated side streets located in Weirton, Hancock County, West Virginia. The BOP was a large structure situated on a 16.4-acre parcel of the former Weirton Steel facility. The area of the Site along WV Route 2 is industrial and surrounded by former steel processing operation facilities and railroad tracks running along the southwest side of the Site. The area of the Site along Weir Avenue includes residential homes, vacant lots, churches and some commercial properties covering approximately 40 acres. The nearest residential properties are approximately 300 feet from the BOP in an eastern direction.

##### 1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is part of the former Weirton Steel facility and currently owned/operated by Frontier Industrial Corporation, Mingo Junction Steel Works, LLC. The BOP facility is located approximately 1000 feet south-southeast from the intersection of WV State Route 2 (SR2) and Pennsylvania Avenue (SR105) in Weirton, Hancock County, WV. Site coordinates obtained using Google Earth® are 40° 24' 58.83" North latitude and 80° 35' 17.95" West longitude, and the elevation of the Site is approximately 730 feet.

##### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

On March 9, 2019, the final phase of the BOP demolition project was conducted by the owner/operator, Frontier Industrial Corporation, Mingo Junction Steel Works, LLC, who had the remaining BOP structure demolished by means of a scheduled implosion. The initial phases of the demolition project consisted of a physical teardown of the structure with the remaining segment scheduled for an implosion. The implosion which took place on March 9, 2019 caused a large rolling dust cloud over the adjacent neighborhood and resulted in deposition of particulate matter on nearby residential and commercial properties. The removal site evaluation is being conducted to determine if the particulate matter contained hazardous substances, mainly heavy metals and asbestos, and pose a threat to public health and the environment. A video of the implosion and resulting dust cloud can be seen on the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3DNRxvD6Dk>

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

A removal site evaluation has commenced and is ongoing

## 2. Current Activities

### 2.1 Operations Section

### 2.1.1 Narrative

Cleanup of the former Weirton Steel facility is being conducted under two (2) U.S. EPA RCRA Corrective Action Administrative Consent Orders by the current owner (Mingo Junction Steel Works LLC) and former owner (ArcelorMittal Weirton LLC). Demolition of the BOP facility was conducted initially by physical teardown of the structure including the removal of any asbestos material. The second phase was the implosion of the remaining structure which occurred on March 9, 2019. The implosion caused a large dust cloud to envelope parts of the residential neighborhood due east and adjacent to the BOP. A subcontractor for Frontier Industrial Corporation reportedly washed down dwellings, yards, automobiles, sidewalks and streets that had been covered with the dust. Dust samples were collected by different entities for heavy metals and asbestos. A representative for the Frontier – Mingo Junction Steel Works, LLC identified to the WVDEP that the cleanup of the BOP parcel would be entering the WVDEP Division of Land Restoration – Voluntary Remediation Program.

On or about October 30, 2019, the WVDEP requested assistance from the EPA's Removal Program to collect samples from the residential neighborhood that had been impacted from the implosion to determine if the dust contained elevated levels of contaminants of concern consisting of heavy metals and asbestos. The OSC contacted WVDEP to discuss background information and objectives for the removal site evaluation.

### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

In November 2019, the OSC tasked the START contractor to prepare for a sampling event at the Site. The OSC and START met to discuss sampling objectives and review potential sampling locations. A review of the area identified a number of vacant and undisturbed areas dispersed throughout the impacted neighborhood. The selection of vacant and undisturbed properties allowed for a greater chance for particulate matter to still be present on the properties. The START contractor drafted a health and safety plan, sampling plan and a request for analytical services. EPA obtained access to sample from the respective property owners with a tentative sampling date the week of February 10, 2020. A final sampling date was confirmed for February 19-20, 2020.

An EPA Community Involvement Coordinator (CIC) and two OSCs conducted outreach in the neighborhood around Weir Avenue on February 18, 2020 informing residents of EPA's upcoming sampling event. During the outreach event, the EPA team spoke to approximately 18 residents and distributed a total of 35 cards.

On February 19, 2020, EPA and the START contractor mobilized to Weir Street and surrounding neighborhood to conduct the soil sampling. Sample collection and documentation was conducted by the START Team in accordance with the Sampling QA/QC Work Plan. A total of 19 surface soil samples consisting of 14 field samples, 3 background samples and 2 duplicate samples were collected from low spots on the grass areas of the vacant properties. The samples were sent to respective labs for analysis on February 20, 2020.

Unvalidated data is due on or around March 13, 2020 and validated data is due or around the week of April 6, 2020.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

Frontier Industrial Corporation, Mingo Junction Steel Works, LLC. Is the current owner/operator of the property and approved the implosion of the Basic Oxygen Plant.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

EPA is awaiting laboratory results from the February sampling event. Once results are received, the OSC will coordinate with the State regarding next actions and forward analytical results to property owners.

## 2.3 Logistics Section

No Information at this time

## 2.4 Finance Section

### Estimated Costs \*

	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Total To Date</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>% Remaining</b>
<b>Extramural Costs</b>				
START	\$25,994.00	\$13,645.58	\$12,348.42	47.50%
<b>Intramural Costs</b>				
<b>Total Site Costs</b>	<b>\$25,994.00</b>	<b>\$13,645.58</b>	<b>\$12,348.42</b>	<b>47.50%</b>

\* The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The OSC does not necessarily receive specific figures on final payments made to any contractor(s). Other financial data which the OSC must rely upon may not be entirely up-to-date. The cost

accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.

**2.5 Other Command Staff**

**2.5.1 Safety Officer**

No Information at this time

**2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

No Information at this time

**2.5.3 Information Officer**

No Information at this time

**3. Participating Entities**

**3.1 Unified Command**

**3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

WVDEP - Jamie Fenske

**4. Personnel On Site**

OSCs - 2

CIC -1

START - 3

**5. Definition of Terms**

BOP	Basic Oxygen Plant
CIC	Community Involvement Coordinator
OSC	On-Scene Coordinator
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
START	Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team
WVDEP	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

**6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.